

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009

HANAFORD SCHOOL CAFETERIA

200 MIDDLE ROAD

EAST GREENWICH, RI 02818

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE
SUBJECT TO A VOTE 7:00p.m. Regular Session**

I. Call to Order

The third February meeting of the East Greenwich School Committee was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at the Hanaford School at 7:00p.m. Members present: JeanAnn Guliano-Chair, Anne Palumbo-Vice-Chair, Mary Ellen Winters, Susan Records, Deidre Gifford, and Robert Durant as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Director of Special Education, Paula Dillon. Mr. Martin was absent.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

III. Public Comments-There were no public comments.

**V. Approval of Minutes-February 3 and February 10, 2009 meetings
and Executive Sessions.**

Mrs. Records made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the above minutes with minor changes. The motion passed

with Mrs. Gifford abstaining on the vote for the minutes of February 10, 2009.

VI. Announcements and Recognitions

Andrew Miner, Cole Middle School seventh grade student, was recognized for being the winner of the DAR American History Essay Contest sponsored by the Nathanael Greene Chapter, DAR. In addition, Andrew was recognized for being the winner of the contest sponsored by the RI State Society, DAR.

Rose Miner was recognized for her service on the Finance Advisory Committee. Mrs. Guliano stated that Mrs. Miner is now heading the grant process for the East Greenwich Education Foundation.

VI. FY 2010 Budget Hearing

Mr. Meyers gave an overview of the 2009-2010 budget. He noted that the budget is driven by our mission. He stated that salaries and benefits for teachers are not yet negotiated, adding that teachers will move up on salary steps but there will be no other increases. There are increases for support staff because of a previously negotiated contract but he is still negotiating with custodians. This budget doesn't take into consideration any money from the stimulus package. FM systems were discussed at length. The Superintendent noted that there is some controversy about the FM systems. The school department physician was contacted and he didn't think there was any problem. The systems are in the budget now but are not the highest priority. Blue Rays would be purchased as opposed to the

other systems. Judi Cavanaugh, union co-president, stated that some teachers will not wear them. We cannot insist that a teacher wear them. Mrs. Gifford did some research and stated there is not much out there showing the educational benefits of FM systems. She feels that in a lean budget year, this should not be a budget priority. Mrs. Dillon stated that there are students who have them in their IEP's. She added that the last purchase of these systems was out of the grant. Mr. Durant doesn't feel that we should purchase new ones if the ones we have now are not being used. Mrs. Cavanaugh stated that we should make sure that these systems don't interfere with pacemakers. The consensus is that these should be taken out of the budget. It was noted that the truck is still in the budget at \$62,000. Mr. Durant questioned why we need this truck if the Town plows. Mr. Meyers noted that the understanding is we use two of our maintenance workers and our truck to help out with plowing. We should approach the Town Council about using their fleet of trucks. The proposed budget for the 2009-2010 is \$32,644,227 without the truck. It is a 2.64% increase.

Mrs. Gifford asked about technology at the high school, noting that a large amount of money is in the budget for technology equipment. Her concern is that we shouldn't purchase more equipment when we don't maintain what we have. Mr. Durant stated that a study should be done to make sure we get the most

bang for our buck. It was noted that the School Committee can amend the budget right up to a few weeks before the Financial Town

Meeting since there are too many uncertainties now.

VII. Action Items

a. Approval Building Committee Charge and Fiscal Management Procedure

On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to table this item. It was noted that the Town Council received different language from their bond counsel.

b. Sunday River, Maine Ski Trip for Cole Middle School from March 6 through March 8

Mrs. Gifford made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Palumbo to approve the Maine ski trip. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Appointments

SPRING COACHES FOR EGHS:

Mrs. Records made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the coaches items i, ii, and iii. The motion passed unanimously.

i. Brian McKaig, head boys' volleyball for spring season

ii. Bryan Fennessey, volunteer JV baseball

iii. RE-APPOINTED COACHES EGHS Robert Downey, head baseball, Robert Petrucci, head softball, Peter Dion, boys head track, Stanley Johnson, head girls' track, Judy Davis, girls' head lacrosse, Lisa MacFarlane, assistant softball, Marc Brocato, head golf, Nicole Christie, girls' assistant track, Dustin Coleman, assistant boys' outdoor track

iv. Matthew Records, assistant baseball

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to

approve the appointment of Matthew Records. The motion passed with Mrs. Records recusing herself.

v. RE-APPOINTED COACHES COLE MIDDLE SCHOOL – Mark Streich, head baseball, Richard Glover, head softball

Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the coaches for Cole Middle School. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Parental Leave

i. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the parental leave extension of Caroline Bradshaw from January 8, 2009 to March 11, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Approval of EGHS Program of Studies

Mrs. Nota-Masse stated that the suggested change was made on page 21. She noted that this document is available online through the website. She also stated that high school teachers will take a vote on the block schedule on February 25th. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the East Greenwich High School Program of Studies. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Palumbo asked about the Tollgate Vocational Program. Mrs. Nota-Masse stated that we need to look at this program carefully since it is for a small number of kids. The busing to Tollgate is also a concern as kids are losing large chunks of class time being on the buses. Mrs. Palumbo feels that if this program is taken away, kids won't go to school. Mr. Meyers stated that another option for the future is New England Tech. Mrs. Dillon stated that if students go to

Tollgate full time and have an IEP, the tuition would more than double and that affects seven out of ten students.

Mrs. Palumbo asked about the Senior Project Day presentations. Mr. Greg DeCubellis, the English Department Head, stated that twelve students presented and all but two made it on the first try. His team will coordinate with Providence College to the score research papers.

Mrs. Palumbo asked if he would consider using the students who already presented as mentors. Mr. DeCubellis stated that this was not considered but students allowing themselves to be taped will help other students.

f. Approval of Suspensions, Non-Renewals and Lay-offs

Mr. Meyers stated that these have to be voted on every year prior to March 1st. The School Committee has to approve these names. Mr. Meyers stated that layoffs are being done because of

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reductions in staff at a particular grade level. We also have teacher whose contracts will be non-renewed because they are retirees.

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the suspensions, non-renewals and layoffs at the Superintendent's discretion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Meyers noted that we will recall teachers whose contracts were suspended and any other jobs will go to job fair. He noted that he sits down with principals to appoint teachers for the positions that they are suited for.

VIII. Future Business

a. Technology Study

Mr. Meyers will meet with administrators. He would like names from each school and then set up a technology committee. Mrs. Records asked if the technology committee could develop a scope for the RFP. Mr. Meyers noted that he will bring the RFP to the technology committee. Mrs. Records stated that client involvement is very important.

b. Policy Development

Mrs. Dillon, Mrs. Gifford and Mr. Meyers met to talk about the new policies. He would like to run these by the full subcommittee, and present them on future agendas.

c. Consolidation

Consolidation with the Town for maintenance and technology is being explored.

IX. Subcommittee Reports

a. Facilities

i. Building Committee Report

The next building committee date is March 4th. The subcommittee will meet today on sustainable energy and they will go over their agenda for their March 4th meeting. They will invite the Energy Conversation Committee to the meeting and talk about options for energy efficiency and our requirements for RIDE.

ii. Fields Committee Report

Mr. DiSaia stated that the public will not see much happening now on site because of the layers of ice in the ground. Our case will be presented to DEM on Friday, February 27th and to the Department of

Education after that. He noted the great cooperation between the Superintendent and the Department of Public Works. There will be a meeting between the architects and Michael Feeney about raising money for concession stands. We have to submit the final budget to the Department of Education. Mr. DaSilva from RIDE requested a letter stating that the Building Committee and Fields Committee are coordinating their efforts. We will assure RIDE that the science wing project at the high school this summer doesn't conflict with the fields project. We are still on our timeline for the fields.

Mr. Feeney has set up a joint meeting with the fields committee and fields construction committees on March 4th. He also spoke about an upcoming fundraiser on April 25th at Potowomut Country Club. He also noted that the key to the concession stand project is fundraising.

Groundbreaking will be held on a weekday in hope that the Governor will be there. There will be an article in the Pendulum about the fields.

b. Communications

i. Status Federal Stimulus Package

It seems we will receive \$584,000 in 2009 for special education services under IDEA Part B. The state may take it off state aid.

ii. State Budget

It was noted that the Governor has asked for a delay.

iii. Barrington Letter on Funding Formula

This letter is a guideline for us as we would like to send a similar letter.

VIII. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Palumbo is chairing this project for East Greenwich and she has approximately 200 East Greenwich families and students attending.

IX. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to adjourn and go into Executive Session at 9:00p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) for Teacher Contract Negotiations